the BIS Certification Marking Scheme is mandatory under the law. Samples of various articles of food are being regularly drawn by the Prevention of Food Adulteration enforcement agencies of the States|Union Territories under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954, to ensure the quality of food stuffs manufactured|stored|kept for sale for human consumption in various parts of the country.

Utilisation of major portion of coal in power generation

5055. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 70 per cent of the coal output of the country is used for power generation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that generally the cool is of poor quality and its mining unscientific; and

(c) if so, the steps under consideration to improve the quality of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. About 70 per cent of the raw coal produced in the country is being consumed by power sector.

(b) and (c) In the process of mining of coal especially in opencast mines some stones/shales/extraneous materials may get mixed with coal. Following steps are being taken by coal companies to improve the quality of coal sent to ocnsumers including power houses;

(i) An action plan for installation of feeder breakers and coal handling plants is being implemented to ensure quality of coal.

(ii) Stones are being segregated at the titme of loading of coal.

(iii) wherever feasible slow moving picking belts are being provided in coal handling plants for manual picking of shale and stone pieces.

(iv) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(v) All consumers are encouraged to post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality of coal despatches. Consumers specially power sector is constantly reminded to make payment of arrears of dues and to comply with cash and carry system or open irrevocable letter of credit covering the price of coal.

(vi) Coal India Limited proposed to set up washeries under Build Own Operate bosis to beneficiate non-cooking coal which could be used by power houses.

As regards unscientific mining, any such cases reported by Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Coal Controller etc. are brought to the notice of the Coal Companies for corrective action.

Writing off coal stock shortages

5056. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how much coal stock shortage has been written off upto the 31st March, 1994 in different subsidiaries during last five years;

(b) what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether anybody has been made accountable for such shortages of stock of coal which had to be written off causing loss too the nation.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?